A 3275-2
1/22/91

trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 27, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 22 totaled an estimated 18.3 billion ton-miles, 2.1 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 34 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 593.6 billion ton-miles, 0.2 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 22 totaled 438,519 cars, 0.2 percent below 1980, but 0.3 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 10.2 percent in the East, but down 4.5 percent in the South, and 4.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 15 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings showed an increase of 12,542 cars, or 10.7 percent, metallic ores were up 8,862 cars, or 31.7 percent, and loadings of coke registered a 65.4 percent increase. Fifteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended August 15 totaled 33,308 cars, up 9.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 60,118 trailers and/or containers, up 7.9 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 33 weeks of the year was 1,067,748 cars, 1.2 percent higher than last year, and 1,928,490 trailers and/or containers, 0.3 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/22/81:

	Loadings in Week ended August 22, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,270	D	4,613	14.0	I	913	3.3
Other farm products	2,997	D	904	23.2	D	192	6.0
Metallic ores	36,813	I	8,862	31.7	D	1,597	4.2
Coal	129,908	I	12,542	10.7	D	751	0.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,549	D	2,185	14.8	D	1	0.0
Nonmetallic minerals	13,719	D	2,642	16.1	I	471	3.6
Grain mill products	13,539	D	3,596	21.0	D	593	4.2
Food and kindred products	15,629	D	2,912	15.7	I	578	3.8
Primary forest products	18,223	D	1,662	8.4	I	164	0.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,307	D	2,235	23.4	I	127	1.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,280	D	857	4.3	I	554	3.0
Chemicals and allied products	25,324	D	726	2.8	I	273	1.1
Petroleum products	5,334	D	110	2.0	I	236	4.6
Stone, clay and glass products	13,525	D	2,361	14.9	I	37	0.3
Coke	6,424	I	2,539	65.4	D	113	1.7
Metals and products	14,134	I	892	6.7	I	168	1.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	13,267	I	285	2.2	I	573	4.5
Waste and scrap materials	11,788	I	785	7.1	I	169	1.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,503	D	1,361	12.5	I	211	2.3
All other carloads	40,783	D	390	0.9	I	86	0.2
LCL traffic	203	D	11	5.1	I	12	6.3
Total Cars Loaded	438,519	D	660	0.2	I	1,325	0.3
Corresponding week of 1980	439,179						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (34 weeks)	14,159,716	14,754,022	D	4.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
33 Weeks cumulative	575.3	576.9	D	0.3
Week ended August 22	18.3	17.9	I	2.1
34 Weeks cumulative	593.6	594.8	D	0.2

AARt-082781